

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ALLIANCE FOR
HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION**

October 26, 2016

Chairperson Paul Imhoff called to order the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on October 26, 2016 in the BASA Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Bob Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Clint Keener	Bay Village City Schools
Michael Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Michael Johnson	Bexley City Schools
Tom Henderson (<i>via proxy</i>)	Centerville City Schools
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley (<i>via proxy</i>)	Dublin City Schools
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village Schools
Chad Hilliker	Loveland City Schools
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Matt Miller	Mentor Exempted Village Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
Michael Shoaf (<i>via proxy</i>)	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Kathi Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Brad Neavin	Vandalia-Butler City Schools
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools

Also, in attendance were Alliance Executive Director Anthony Podojil, Consultant Jim Betts, and Executive Assistant Barbara Adams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Brad Neavin moved and Gail Kist-Kline seconded a motion to move into Executive Session for a discussion concerning a personnel contract. The motion passed. The members entered Executive Session at 9:30 a.m.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes for the September 28, 2016 meeting, electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting, were reviewed and discussed.

Matt Miller moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the minutes for September 28, 2016. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Reports.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for September. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget is on target for the fiscal year with revenues in line with projections. There will be an increase in rent expenditures due to the costs associated with acquiring additional office space from BASA.

Joe Regano moved and Tom Hosler seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for September 2016. The motion passed.

In addition, an amendment to the budget was proposed to accommodate the expected increase in expenditures related to the contract approved for The Dovilla Group. Based on the provisions stipulated in that agreement, the following motion was offered to the committee,

Mike Sheppard moved and Bob Scott seconded the approval of an amendment to the budget for the 2016/17 fiscal year that moves \$30,000 from the reserve fund to the general revenue line and establishes an expenditure line item for the same amount to cover the costs associated with the Dovilla Group contract. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **ESSA** – Jim updated the committee on what is occurring across the state in terms of the department's outreach for feedback. At our last Coalition meeting, it was announced that the data being collected during the regional meetings was going to be presented to the state board of education when they meet in November. In addition, the data from the department's survey of the field was also going to be presented at that time.

We have been holding regular meetings with the Ohio 8 for the purpose of developing several collaborative outreaches to legislators as well as preparing for a possible joint testimony when the need arises. One of the recommendations we have been making to legislators is that they use the Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) as the vehicle to get public feedback on the data collected and ODE's draft ESSA application. We have been in contact with Chairperson Hite and other members of the committee, all of whom seem receptive to that idea.

Our continuing concern is that the Department will not leave enough time for the field to provide adequate input once the draft application is released. We will need an analysis of what is contained in the application and how it correlates to the data received from the field. The concern is that the state will remain firm in their present positions, rather than consider any scaling back of requirements. The state superintendent has set March as the deadline for submittal of the application to the feds.

2. **HB 524 – Value Added** – We are not anticipating that this bill will be heard during the lame duck session, although Representatives Cupp and Smith still seem interested in having a detailed discussion on the subject. The presentation made by the Department to the House Education Committee in the Spring did not provide the clarity representatives were seeking on this topic.

This is still an area of great interest to the committee. The impact value added has in the OTES program is still problematic. The use of value added should at least be delayed until several years of data can be accumulated in order to establish some level of validity. It seems that role that Battelle for Kids has had in this discussion has been greatly reduced.

3. **College Credit Plus / HB 445, HB 474** – It is still not clear which of these bills will be heard during the lame-duck session but we are anticipating that HB 474, which favors higher education, is the likely vehicle. During our meeting with Representative Brenner on 11/3, we hope to discuss CCP with him in more detail to see what he may be planning during the lame duck session.

Jeff Brown shared information from a PowerPoint released from the Department regarding the number of students who have enrolled in the program. From that data, it appears that the majority of students enrolled are from affluent districts, including many in the Alliance. This is disappointing to the sponsors, since the program was designed to target students from high poverty districts and give them an opportunity to earn college credit while in high school.

4. **SB 3 – Deregulation** – The bill, still in the House, is being considered as a possible ‘Christmas Tree’ bill whereby any and all other education issues currently pending will be attached to it during the “lame duck” session. We hope to learn more when the Advisory Committee meets with Representative Brenner on November 3. There is no guarantee that this bill will move out of the House. If it does not, we will need to start over when the next legislature convenes.

5. **HB 410 - Truancy** – HB 410, which currently sits in the Senate Education Committee, is slated to be heard once the Senate reconvenes following the election. We have been advocating for an exception from the truancy requirements for those districts that already have effective strategies for dealing with truancy in place. One of the issues concerning the creation of an appropriate level for qualifying for the exemption lies in the current methodology used by the Department to calculate chronic absenteeism. Currently, that number includes both excused and unexcused absences.

We have had discussions with the Department and Senator Lehner’s office on this issue regarding the need to refine the calculations to reflect a truer picture of truancy in districts. If a realistic level can be established, an exemption to the new procedures may be the best approach.

6. **TPP, Minimum Funding Level, Guarantees, Caps** – We met with Aaron Rausch at the Department to review our recent positions. He is familiar with our specific requests since he was present in the budget office when we met with Director Keen. He asked for our spreadsheets on TPP and the minimum funding level which were promptly sent to him.

We have a meeting scheduled with the TPP group on 11/2 to discuss a strategy for the biennium budget. The fair funding districts will be holding a follow-up meeting on 11/14 at 4:00 p.m. during the Capital Conference.

7. **New Graduation Requirements** – There has been increased discussion among educators about the potential impact associated with the changes to the graduation requirements beginning with this year’s junior class. Based upon the new requirements, districts are anticipating a substantial increase in the number of students who will not qualify for a diploma because they will not be able to earn the required points on the state’s End of Course (EOC) assessments.

At the last state board of education meeting, the board heard testimony from a local district on this topic. The board appears headed for a more substantial discussion when it meets again in November. During the meeting, Senator Lehner expressed concern that the timetable for implementing the standards may not have allowed for an adequate transition period for districts and students to adjust to the new requirements. Senator Lehner advocated for a phase in period that would establish a different starting point so that a transition timeline could be put in place.

B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **House Education Committee** – The House Education Advisory Committee will meet with House Education Chairperson Brenner on Thursday, November 3rd at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

2. **Ohio Standards Coalition Meeting** – Tony indicated he attended the coalition meeting on October 12th. The Coalition has secured a grant to hold focus groups with parents regarding the state

report card. Questions related to how the report card is used as a tool to help parents understand the academic progress of their children will be part of those discussions.

3. **State Board of Education** – Tony indicated that, at the last meeting of the State Board, he had a discussion with Board President Gunlock on the issues surrounding the new graduation rate requirements. Gunlock appeared receptive to the possibility of creating a transition period so that students and schools would have an opportunity to adjust to the assessments and create effective intervention strategies for those students who need them.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the legislative/system improvements committee will follow the department's release of the data collected during the regional meetings and the online survey.

ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

Jim Betts reported that the next meeting of the ESSA sub-committee would be scheduled once the department releases a schedule of when they attend to release the application.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting – Tony updated the committee on the number of attendees (over 300) planning to attend. Information on the 25th anniversary reception will be sent out next week inviting members to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT


Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at OSBA.

CERTIFICATE

I, Paul Imhoff, Chair, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education held October 26, 2016.



Paul Imhoff, Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director